

REMARKS

Applicants continue to traverse the restriction/election requirement and note that it is agreed that claim 1 constitutes a generic claim at least as to the Group 1 product claims 1-9.

Claims 1 and 3-6 are newly rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being obvious over Hunn in view of Joiner. This rejection is respectfully traversed.

Independent claim 1 requires the rigidity of the product being displayed to maintain the spacing between upper and lower hinge members. In Hunn, the products being displayed are carpet samples 22 on a frame card 16. The product samples do not maintain hinge members spaced apart. Moreover, the items 32 and 34, which the Examiner cites as hinge members, are in fact spacers and have nothing to do with the hinging of the display panel. Joiner adds nothing to Hunn that would render the claimed invention obvious over the combination of references. Accordingly, the new rejection should be withdrawn.

It is respectfully submitted that all of the claims, both product and method, rely upon the rigidity of a product sample to maintain the spacing between the upper and lower hinge members so that the respective upper and lower pins can be mated with the display rack for which it is intended. This concept is not disclosed or suggested in any of the references. Moreover, any reference which would disclose or suggest the claimed methods would need to disclose or suggest the resultant

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display sample where upper and lower hinge members are maintained in a spaced relationship by the rigidity of the product sample. Nevertheless, if the Examiner determines that product claims 1 - 9 are now in condition for allowance, applicants hereby authorize the cancellation of the method claims 10-17 without prejudice.

Applicants' undersigned has attempted to discuss these issues with the examiner by telephone. If after review of this Reply, Claims 1 - 9 are not determined to be in form for allowance, applicants' undersigned attorney respectfully requests the Examiner to call him to discuss any outstanding issues.

Reconsideration and allowance is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

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